128 511 crop year. Except for a few exceptional cases, no new item appeared during the few months that lapsed because rice farmers customarily make their major purchases during the dry season following harvesting time. Special expenses of the 96 continuing families during the period from March, 1948 to February, 1953 were shown in Table 57.

511 Some explanations are necessary for Table 57. In the first place, whereas ordinary household expenses are estimates based on experience of farm operators, these special expenses are actual amounts spent during the specified period of five years. Most of the expenses on land [432] purchases were down payments and subsequent partial payments. Of the four families reporting purchases of household equipment, three bought guns and one bought a sewing machine. [757] All major repairs were for dwellings. The major medical [755] expenses did not include small amounts of money regularly spent on drugs for headache and stomachache or even on delivery of babies which was done by traditional midwives whose fees were nominal. In fact, there were only three cases of major medical expenses. The largest one included [525] Bangkok hospital bills amounting to 14,000 baht. The 36,190 [484] baht of odd expenses included 3,000 baht on gambling(only [691] two operators reported expenses on this item, others admitted win and losses but did not give the amounts), 2,000 baht on purchases of government lotteries which are issued once a week and also on several other occasions, 500 baht on legal prosecution, 300 baht on reward for the

[TEXT CONTINUED ON PAGE 331]

511
525
691
484
431
593

recovery of a boat stolen, 390 baht on "laxity", and 30,000 baht on a trip to Mecca. The gifts to offspring included only gifts presented when offspring left the family to start an independent family of their own.

Special Receipts

*128
434

By special receipts we mean major items of receipts in addition to those regularly obtained from crops, labor, rent, and interest on loans extended. These are counterparts of special expenses, and informations about them were obtained from the 96 sample-families in the same manner and almost concurrently. Examples of these special receipts are: sales of land, gold, and major farm equipment; loans obtained, full or partial settlement of loans extended; gifts and remittances; and odd receipts like those from government lottery prizes, running a gambling house, and laxity practices. Special receipts of the 96 sample-families during the period from March, 1948 to February, 1953 were shown in Table 58.

Some of these items of special receipts need explanation. Land sold by two farm operators were sold for cash needed for loan repayment. It is perhaps worth noting that one of these two operators was in the habit of heavy drinking and had been in recent years spending about two thousand baht annually on liquor alone, while the other was in the habit of gambling. All five operators reporting sales of gold gave the reason for the sale that cash was needed to either buy farm equipment (buffaloes) or to repay

[TEXT CONTINUED ON PAGE 333]